MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
MAY '97 364
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
TAKING BACK THE NIGHT!
DIRECT EDITION
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$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

EARLY MORNING.
I HAVEN'T SLEPT ALL NIGHT. I'VE BEEN SHOT AT, DIVE-BOMBED, TRICKED, BEAT ON, SCRAPED OFF, DRAGGED ALONG, AND SOAKED TO THE SKIN.
BUT ALL GOOD THINGS MUST END.
KRASH
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, OF COURSE. I SHOULD PROBABLY JUST COME HERE EVERY TIME A CRIME IS COMMITTED.
THE KINGPIN'S PENTHOUSE OFFICE, WFSK BUILDING.
WITH MY HEIGHTENED SENSES I CAN SMELL OLD CIGARS AND NEW BLOOD -- AND SOMETHING SWEET AND COPPERY THAT'S FAMILIAR, BUT...
...I GET DISTRACTED BY POUNDING FEET AND TRIPHAMMER HEARTBEATS THUNDERING UP THE HALL.
THINK WE DON'T GOT THIS PLACE WIRED, PUNK?
YOU'RE ROBBIN' THE WRONG ROOST -- WHOEVER YOU ARE!
THE WELCOME WAGON.
UDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDD

ALWAYS ENJOY RUNNING INTO DOM AND RENNY.
THEY WORK SO HARD AT BEING TOUGH GUYS... WISEGUYS... GOODFELLAS...
...MAKES YOU WISH THEY WERE BETTER AT IT.
AIMING, FOR INSTANCE, WOULD REALLY IMPROVE THEIR SHOOTING.
A BLIND MAN COULD DO BETTER. I SHOULD KNOW.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUD
THEIR BREATHING IS QUICK AND SHALLOW. THE SALTY TANG OF SWEAT HANGS JUST BELOW THE CORDITE.
THEY'RE SCARED -- AND NOT OF SOME ALLEGED THIEF THEY DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT.
PAK
PTANG
KCK
CHOW
NO -- THEY'RE AFRAID OF THEIR BOSS. THE HYPER-CHARGED INSOMNIA, MAYBE...
...OR SOMEONE ELSE.
PAW
KRISH
POK
FWOOM
HOLD IT, RENNY! THAT GUY --
Aw, NO -- DON'T TELL ME! DON'T TELL ME IT'S...
...DAREDEVIL...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
KWUMP

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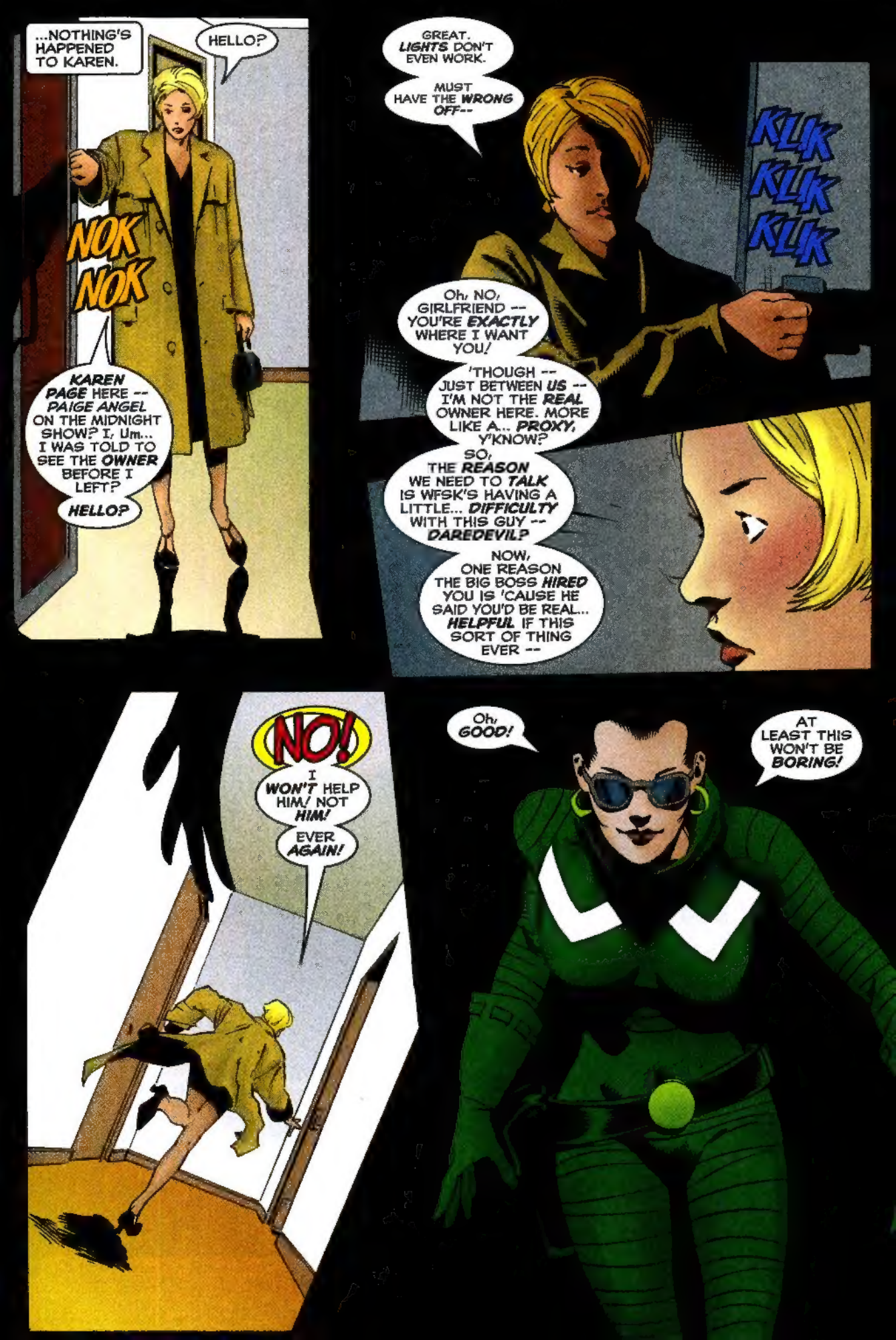
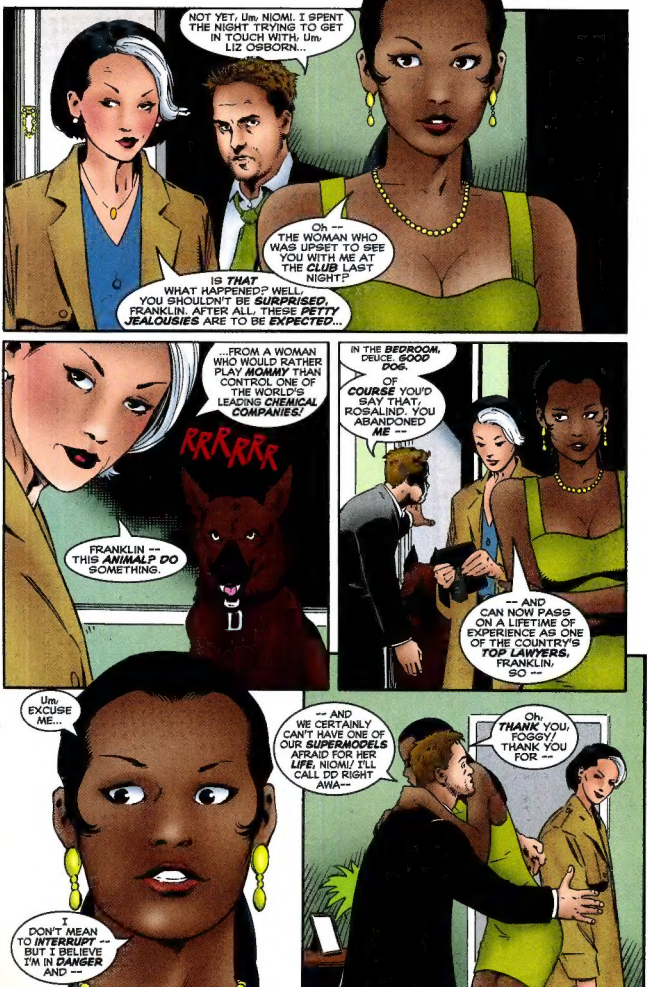

...NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO KAREN.
HELLO?
NOK NOK
KAREN PAGE HERE -- PAIGE ANGEL ON THE MIDNIGHT SHOW? I, Um... I WAS TOLD TO SEE THE OWNER BEFORE I LEFT?
HELLO?
GREAT. LIGHTS DON'T EVEN WORK.
MUST HAVE THE WRONG OFF--
KLIK KLIK KLIK
Oh, NO, GIRLFRIEND -- YOU'RE EXACTLY WHERE I WANT YOU!
'THOUGH -- JUST BETWEEN US -- I'M NOT THE REAL OWNER HERE. MORE LIKE A... PROXY, Y'KNOW?
SO, THE REASON WE NEED TO TALK IS WFSK'S HAVING A LITTLE... DIFFICULTY WITH THIS GUY -- DAREDEVIL?
NOW, ONE REASON THE BIG BOSS HIRED YOU IS 'CAUSE HE SAID YOU'D BE REAL... HELPFUL IF THIS SORT OF THING EVER --
NO!
I WON'T HELP HIM, NOT HIM!
EVER AGAIN!
Oh, GOOD!
AT LEAST THIS WON'T BE BORING!

NOW WHERE DID SHE RABBIT OFF TO --?
AH/ THE STAIRWELL!
SMART GIRL, KAREN/ NOW THE SIXTY-FOUR ZILLION DOLLAR QUESTION IS -- UP OR DOWN?
CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES...
...FOR MOST PEOPLE.
UNFORTUNATELY, DARLING, INSOMNIA KNOWS ALL -- INSOMNIA SEES ALL/
AND SEEING IS BELIEVING...
...AND BELIEVE ME, I CAN SEE THAT THE FRESHEST SCRAPES ON THE STAIRS GO...
...UP/
GOTCHA!
LEAST -- I WILL VERY SOON/
AND YOU GOT ME, TOO, KAREN/ YOU GOT MY INTEREST PIQUED!
I MEAN -- WHAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND THE SCARLET SWASHBUCKLER? I'M JUST DYING TO KNOW/
AND I GUARANTEE YOU, YOU'LL BE DYING TO TELL ME/

ANSWER THE PHONE, LIZ.
PLEASE -- PICK UP FOR ME.. PICK UP FOR FOGGY...
VRRING VRRING VRRING VRRING
Uhhh... SHE'S AVOIDING ME, DEUCE. THE ONE WOMAN WHO MEANS ANYTHING TO ME WON'T ANSWER MY CALLS.
BEEN CALLING ALL NIGHT -- BET THAT'S REAL ENDEARING, Huh? PROBABLY UNPLUGGED HER PHONE HOURS AGO...
JUST WANNA EXPLAIN WHAT SHE SAW AT THE LUNA LOUNGE, THAT'S ALL. JUST WANNA STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT BETWEEN ME AND --
NOK NOK
-- LIZ?!
CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GLAD I AM YOU CAME O--
WOFF
Oh. ROSALIND.
SUCH A WARM WELCOME, FRANKLIN --
-- IS IT TOO EARLY FOR YOUR OWN MOTHER AND SENIOR LAW PARTNER TO STOP BY?
IT CERTAINLY APPEARS YOU MANAGED EVEN LESS SLEEP THAN I DID LAST NIGHT. BUT THEN, YOU WERE QUITE BUSY...
...OR SO Ms. NIOMI BRINKE TELLS ME. I RAN INTO HER ON THE STREET OUTSIDE...
I... I'M SORRY, FOGGY, BUT THE STALKER I TOLD YOU ABOUT? HE WAS WAITING FOR ME AS I LEFT THE LUNA LOUNGE.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D CONTACTED DAREDEVIL -- THAT HE'LL HELP ME LIKE YOU SAID HE WOULD?


NOT YET, Um, NIOMI. I SPENT THE NIGHT TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH, Um, LIZ OSBORN...
Oh -- THE WOMAN WHO WAS UPSET TO SEE YOU WITH ME AT THE CLUB LAST NIGHT?
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED? WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED, FRANKLIN. AFTER ALL, THESE PETTY JEALOUSIES ARE TO BE EXPECTED...
...FROM A WOMAN WHO WOULD RATHER PLAY MOMMY THAN CONTROL ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING CHEMICAL COMPANIES!
RRRRRR
FRANKLIN -- THIS ANIMAL? DO SOMETHING.
IN THE BEDROOM, DEUCE. GOOD DOG.
OF COURSE YOU'D SAY THAT, ROSALIND. YOU ABANDONED ME --
-- AND CAN NOW PASS ON A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE AS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP LAWYERS, FRANKLIN, SO --
Um, EXCUSE ME...
I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT -- BUT I BELIEVE I'M IN DANGER AND --
-- AND WE CERTAINLY CAN'T HAVE ONE OF OUR SUPERMODELS AFRAID FOR HER LIFE, NIOMI! I'LL CALL DD RIGHT AWA--
Oh, THANK YOU, FOGGY! THANK YOU FOR --

NIOMI!
THOUGHT I HEARD MY GIRLFRIEND'S VOICE IN HERE!
C'MON, NIOMI -- WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR YOUR CAMEO ON "SECRET HOSPITAL!"
WHAM
HEY! WHO ARE --
IT'S HIM, FOGGY! I TOLD YOU HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME ALONE!
THAT'S RIGHT, NIOMI -- I PAY ATTENTION TO YOU! I WORSHIP YOU! THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT! THAT'S WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO!
BUT AFTER ALL I'VE GIVEN YOU -- THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT ME? WELL, I'M TIRED OF IT! IT'S OVER BETWEEN US!
TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE!
Oh GOD! Oh GOD -- WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT WOULD MATT -- WHAT WOULD DAREDEVIL DO? HE'D... HE'D...
...RUN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, FAT BOY?

MEANWHILE...
YOU AIN'T GONNA DO NOTHIN', DEVIL/
YEAH -- WE GOT YOU IN OUR SIGHTS NOW! SO YOU'RE GONNA COME QUIET-LIKE, OR ME AN' DOM, WE'LL --
PLEASE, FELLAS -- I TELL THE JOKES AROUND HERE/
THAK
THOK
YOU BETTER NOT TOUCH US WITH THAT BILLY-CLUB, DEVIL/
YEAH/ YEAH, WE GOT A HOSTAGE AN' --
DON'T TELL ME -- FEMALE/ MID-TWENTIES/ AFRO-AMERICAN.
STANDING RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
WORDS OF WISDOM, BOYS? NEXT TIME YOU CUFF A HELPLESS LI'L GIRL -- MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BIONIC ARM/
D'OH!
DOM, RENNY -- MEET MISTY KNIGHT, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE.
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG -- BUT I BELIEVE YOU TWO ARE SURROUNDED!

NOW THAT YOU'RE UNDER CONTROL -- LET'S SEE IF I CAN DO THE SAME WITH THIS FIRE.
NORMALLY I'D ABSORB THESE FLAMES WITH HELLFIRE -- BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT, SO...
FWSSSHH
TOLD YA WE NEVER SHOULD'A HOOKED UP WITH THAT PSYCHO DAME, DOM/ I TOLD YA/
NOW, NOW, GENTLEMEN -- YOU CAN'T FOOL THE DEVIL/ I KNOW INSOMNIA ANSWERS TO SOMEONE... BIGGER.
WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME IS WHAT'S GOING ON -- AND WHY SHE'S STEALING ALL THOSE CHEMICALS.
HEY, WE AIN'T GONNA RAT OUT --
OKAY -- OKAY, INSOMNIA DON'T SLEEP AND SHE THINKS THAT'S GOOD SO SHE DON'T WANT NO ONE TO SLEEP/
WE PIGGY-BACKED LOW-FREQUENCIES WITH THE PAIGE ANGEL SHOW. THE MORE LISTENERS, THE HARDER IT GOT TO SLEEP.
TRANSMITTER'S ON THE ROOF. THE CHEMICALS WERE FOR PART TWO -- SOME SORT'A NERVE GAS.
YOU SCREWED THAT, DEVIL -- SO FOR SOME REASON THE BOSS HAD INSOMNIA CALL PAIGE ANGEL INTO HER OFFICE...
LITTLE REMINDER, BOYS -- DEVIL IN FRONT OF YOU ..
KRENK
-- BIONIC ARM BEHIND/
I'LL CHECK THE OFFICE, DD -- I KNOW WHERE THAT IS ALL TOO WELL..
ALL RIGHT, MISTY. I'LL DEAL WITH THE TRANSMITTER...
...BUT IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO THAT ANGEL -- YOU TWO ARE NEXT/
DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HOW MUCH I ENJOY LISTENING TO HER VOICE/

THE ROOFP BLAST/
SHOULD'VE... SHOULD'VE GOTTEN OUT ON ONE OF THE FLOORS... BUT INSOMNIA'S RIGHT BEHIND --
NOT ANY MORE, DARLING/ HEADS UP/
DON'T LET THE CAPE FOOL YOU -- JUST AN ADRENALIN-JUICED JUMP SOME FIFTEEN FEET INTO THE AIR/
AND EVERYONE MAKES SUCH A BIG DEAL ABOUT KERRI STRUG/
THWAK
...LET'S SEE IF I CAN JAR YOUR MEMORY/
NOW, WHERE WERE WE? Ah, YES/
YOU WERE GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT DAREDEVIL/
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
Oh. WELL, IN THAT CASE.
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO BORE ME, KAREN.
TIME TO MAKE THINGS A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING...
KZZZA

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, FAT BOY!
BLAM BLAM
WELL IT'S TOO LATE TO GO BACK!
GRRAARR
DEVIL-DOGS?! WHAT KIND OF --?
GO GET HIM, DEVIL-DOG!
AW, MAN, IT'S JUST SOME OLD GERMAN SHEPHERD!
MAKE ME LOOK SPINELESS IN FRONT OF NIOMI, WILL YOU? LAST TIME, MUTT!

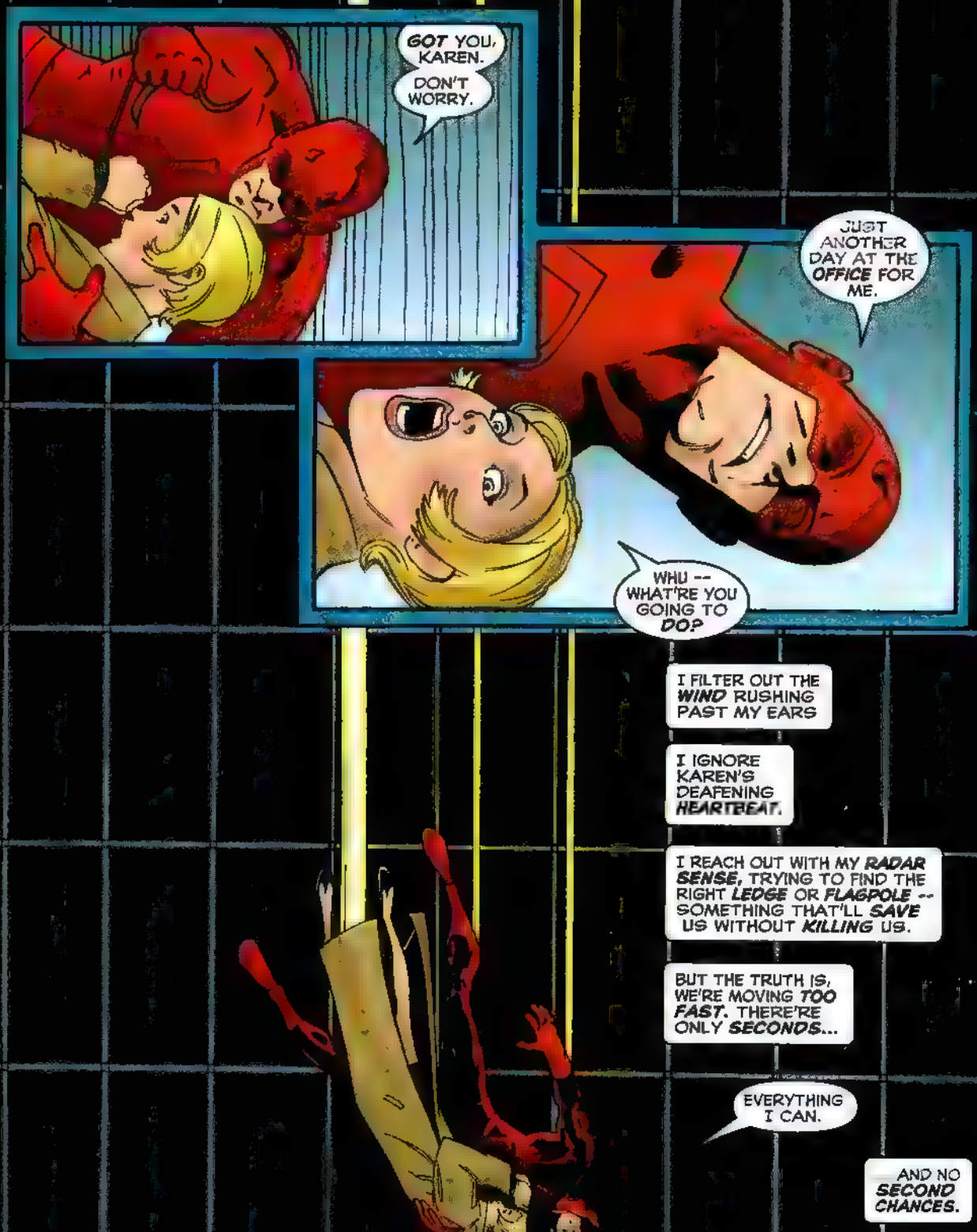
NO!
YOU... YOU KEEP AWAY FROM DEUCE, OR OR --!
KRAKSH
AAGH!!
NG! THAT... THAT REALLY HURT!
I THINK YOU BROKE SOME OF MY RIBS, MAN!
Oh! GEE! SORRY!
I DIDN'T... I MEAN, I WASN'T TRYING TO... IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN --
FRANKLIN? BEFORE YOU SIGN ON AS THIS MAN'S LAWYER SO YOU CAN SUE YOURSELF...
...MAY I SUGGEST YOU REMOVE HIS GUN?

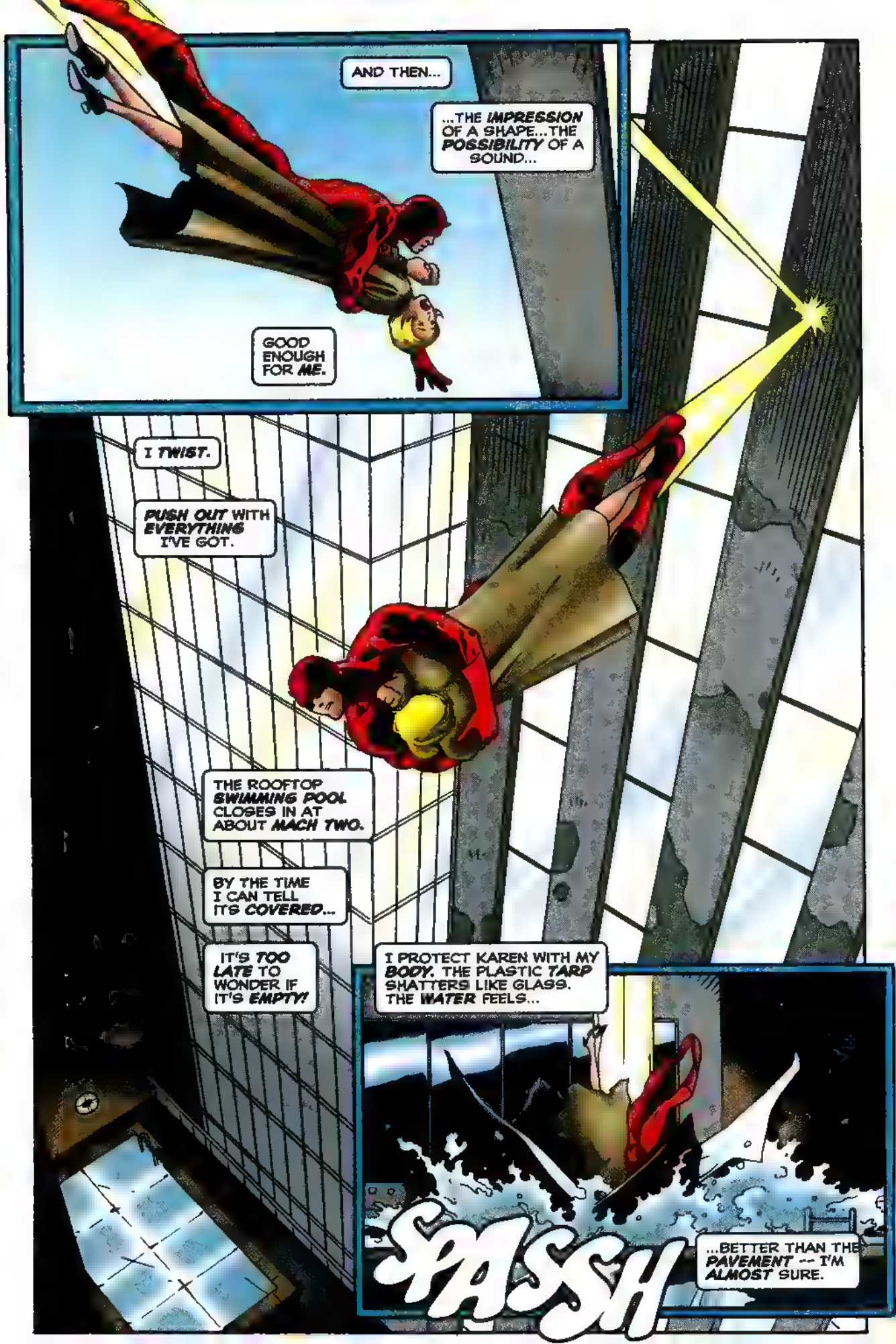
HOW DO YOU *LIKE* IT -- HANGING OFF MY SPECIAL *TRANSMITTER* SOME FORTY FLOORS ABOVE STREET LEVEL?
WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO *TREAD*, Huh -- ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'VE GOT *NO WINGS!*
THINK YOU'RE SCARED *NOW?* WAIT TILL YOU GET A WHIFF OF *THIS!*
PTAF
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT *DAREDEVIL*...
...BEFORE WE FIND OUT THAT *CABLE* CAN'T SUPPORT YOUR *WEIGHT* FOR VERY LONG!
D-DAREDEVIL..
...DAREDEVIL... IS... IS REALLY...
...HE'S REALLY..
...GOING TO KICK YOUR *BUTT!*
Oh, KAREN -- I AM *SO* DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
WHY?
SHE'S RIGHT.
NO! DON'T LET ME *FALL* -- DON'T LET ME *DIE!* I'LL *TELL!*
I'LL TELL.

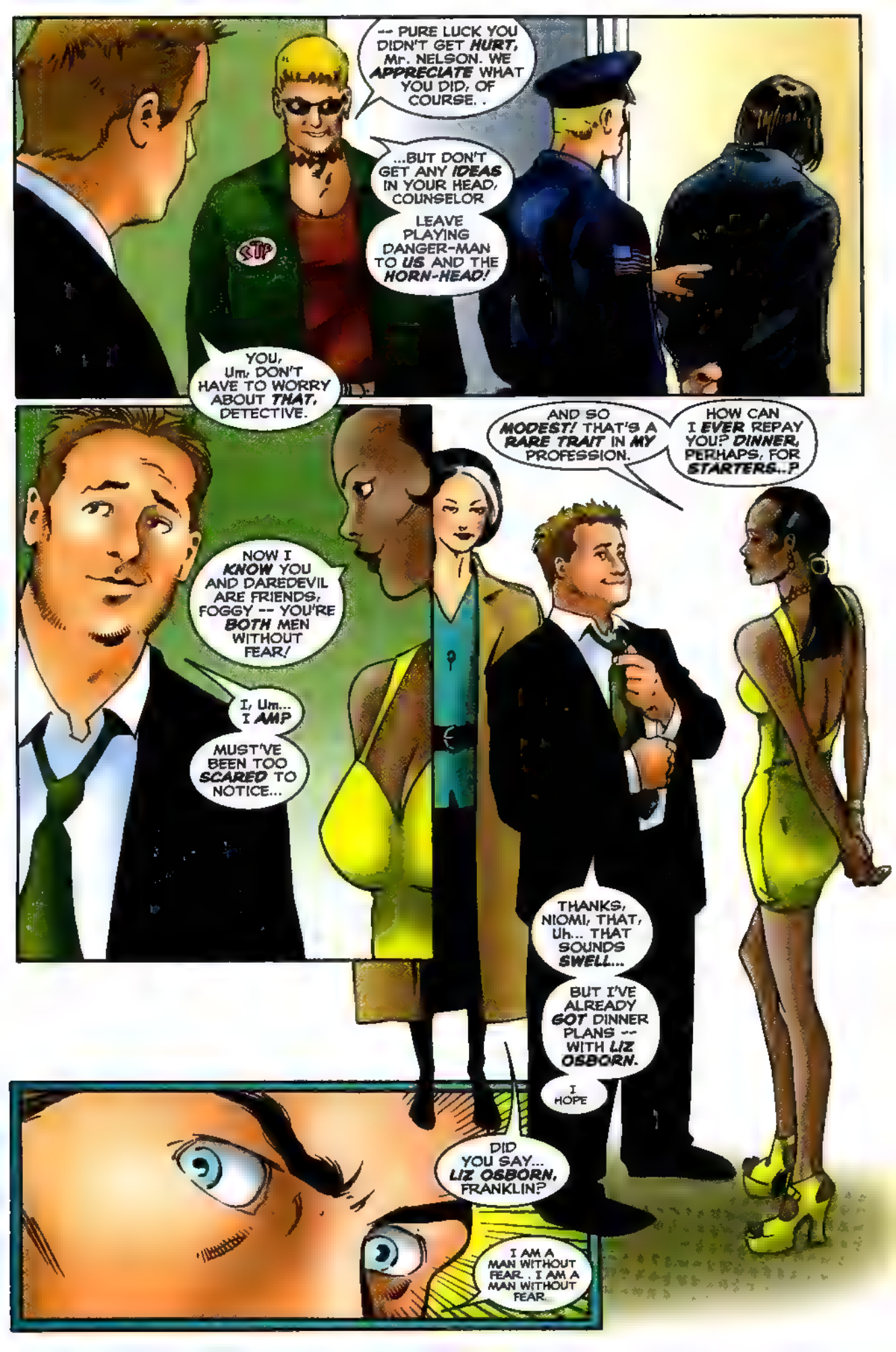
INSOMNIA'S ADRENAL-CHARGED BODY IS STRONGER, FASTER, AND TOUGHER THAN A NORMAL PERSON'S.
SHE GOES REELING INTO THE TRANSMITTER, TAKING IT OUT OF COMMISSION, ... EXACTLY LIKE I PLANNED.
ALL RIGHT -- I ADMIT IT. ALL I'M THINKING ABOUT IS KAREN.
SO... MAYBE I GOT LUCKY.
KWAM
GOTTA LOVE IT!
OKAY - MY TURN! LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE REALLY A MAN WITH-OUT ---
-- WHAT? A GUN?
THAK
IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION...
... THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE!
TRY -- BILLY CLUB!
TWICE THE REFLEXES - TWICE THE FUN, DD!
ALWAYS WONDERED HOW THIS GIZMO WORKED...
WEP

... WHY DON'T WE ALL FIND OUT?
GOING DOWN!
FOR A HEARTBEAT, KAREN SEEMS TO FLOAT IN MID-AIR..
... THEN SHE PINWHEELS BACK, PICKING UP SPEED.
I DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT DIVING AFTER HER -- I JUST DO.
Hmm... NOW WHAT'S THIS BUTTON FOR --?
IT'S A REFLEX... A NECESSITY...
FWIP
WHOA!
ALMOST DON'T NOTICE INSOMNIA ESCAPING.
COOL TOY, DD! I'LL ALWAYS THINK OF YOU FONDLY WHEN I USE IT!
FREEFALL CERTAINLY HELPS YOU PRIORITIZE.

FORTY STORIES UP. NO NET. NOT EVEN A BILLY CLUB THIS TIME -- JUST TO MAKE THINGS INTERESTING.
THIS IS HOW I LIKE IT...
. I KEEP TELLING MYSELF.
KAREN...
..NOW, KAREN CAN PROBABLY THINK OF BETTER THINGS TO DO.
I STREAMLINE MY BODY, TRYING TO CLOSE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US, TRYING TO PROVE I CAN USE ANY LAW TO MY ADVANTAGE...
...EVEN THE LAW OF GRAVITY.
KAREN FLAILS, HELPLESS, HER COAT SNAPPING ANGRILY IN THE WIND, AND FOR ONCE - FOR THE ONLY TIME..
.I'M GLAD I CAN'T SEE HER FACE
WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT.
SHE
WILL NOT
BE
ALONE!


GOT YOU, KAREN.
DON'T WORRY.
JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE FOR ME.
WHU -- WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
I FILTER OUT THE WIND RUSHING PAST MY EARS
I IGNORE KAREN'S DEAFENING HEARTBEAT.
I REACH OUT WITH MY RADAR SENSE, TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT LEDGE OR FLAGPOLE -- SOMETHING THAT'LL SAVE US WITHOUT KILLING US.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, WE'RE MOVING TOO FAST. THERE'RE ONLY SECONDS...
EVERYTHING I CAN.
AND NO SECOND CHANCES.


AND THEN...
...THE IMPRESSION OF A SHAPE...THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOUND...
GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
I TWIST.
PUSH OUT WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.
THE ROOFTOP SWIMMING POOL CLOSES IN AT ABOUT MACH TWO.
BY THE TIME I CAN TELL ITS COVERED...
IT'S TOO LATE TO WONDER IF IT'S EMPTY!
I PROTECT KAREN WITH MY BODY. THE PLASTIC TARP SHATTERS LIKE GLASS. THE WATER FEELS...
SPASSH
...BETTER THAN THE PAVEMENT -- I'M ALMOST SURE.


-- PURE LUCK YOU DIDN'T GET HURT, Mr. NELSON. WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DID, OF COURSE. .
...BUT DON'T GET ANY IDEAS IN YOUR HEAD, COUNSELOR
LEAVE PLAYING DANGER-MAN TO US AND THE HORN-HEAD!
YOU, Um, DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, DETECTIVE.
AND SO MODEST! THAT'S A RARE TRAIT IN MY PROFESSION.
HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU? DINNER, PERHAPS, FOR STARTERS...?
NOW I KNOW YOU AND DAREDEVIL ARE FRIENDS, FOGGY -- YOU'RE BOTH MEN WITHOUT FEAR!
I, Um... I AMP
MUST'VE BEEN TOO SCARED TO NOTICE...
THANKS, NIOMI, THAT, Uh... THAT SOUNDS SWELL...
BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT DINNER PLANS -- WITH LIZ OSBORN.
I HOPE
DID YOU SAY... LIZ OSBORN, FRANKLIN?
I AM A MAN WITHOUT FEAR. I AM A MAN WITHOUT FEAR.

NOW LISTEN HERE, ROSE -- YOU MAY BE MY MOTHER, BUT I'M A GROWN MAN AND IF I WANT TO SEE LIZ I WILL AND YOU CAN'T STOP ME SO DON'T EVEN TRY AND IF YOU DO I'LL--
--HUP!
FRANKLIN, IF YOU WANT TO SEE Ms. OSBORN SO BADLY -- PLEASE DO.
I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU STOPPED LETTING ME PUSH YOU AROUND.
IF I'D KNOWN IT WAS GOING TO TAKE SOMEONE SHOOTING AT YOU TO DO IT, I WOULD'VE AIMED A GUN AT YOU MYSELF -- LONG AGO!
I DIDN'T TELL, MATT...
I WAS NEVER SO SCARED IN MY LIFE -- BUT I DIDN'T TELL HER THAT YOU'RE DAREDEVIL/ KINGPIN CAN TELL HER -- BUT I'LL NEVER TELL/ NEVER AGAIN!
I KNOW, KAREN. YOU DID GREAT.
RELAX, LOVE.
TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP...

KAREN'S BREATHING GETS DEEPER, BUT HER HEART KEEPS RACING.
IT'S A SURE SIGN OF WHAT I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT.
I FEAR INSOMNIA ISN'T WORKING FOR KINGPIN.
THE KEY WORD BEING "FEAR."
PRESENT FOR YOU -- Oh, GREAT MASTER!
DAREDEVIL'S WEAPON. AT LEAST THE NIGHT WASN'T A TOTAL WASTE.
GIVE IT TO ME AND BEGONE!
MM. MASTERFULLY CRAFTED. MANY USES, INCLUDING -- WHEN PROPERLY ASSEMBLED...
...A BLIND MAN'S CANE!
YOU RUINED MY EXPERIMENT THIS TIME, MURDOCK -- BUT WE SHALL CROSS PATHS AGAIN SOON ENOUGH!
KLEK KLAK
AND WHEN WE DO, I PROMISE THAT THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR SHALL TREMBLE BEFORE THE POWER OF... MR. FEAR!
DEFINITELY NOT THE END!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

c/o Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016. Please include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

JAYE GARDNER ● EDITOR

DAN HOSEK ● ASSISTANT EDITOR

BOB HARRAS ● EDITOR IN CHIEF

Devil's Advocate,

DAREDEVIL #361 was excellent and the obvious reason is Karl Kesel, Cary Nord and Matt Ryan! I loved this issue's theme of the best part of being a superhero. It seems today's comic character doesn't think that way anymore. They never seem to take joy in the special things they can do. The things we readers wish we could do. It's great to see DD reveling in his abilities. As I read the narrative I feel like I am DD. It's the way I used to feel when I read Marvel Comics 15 or 20 years ago, and it feels great!

Another aspect that makes this comic great is that most of the issue deals with Matt Murdock's life. It's not about some overblown battle royale or cosmic catastrophe. It's about a man who happens to be a little different. Bravo!

It was great to see the Black Widow grace these pages again. Her character has so much potential when done well. She received more depth and characterization in this single issue than she has in the last 25 issues of the AVENGERS. I hope we can see her here again soon. Judging by the way she almost finished off Grey Gargoyle, I'm betting we will.

Please keep up the good work. Not since Frank Miller's stint have I considered DAREDEVIL to be Marvel's premiere book. It has that distinction today.

Excellence never goes out of style.

Michael C. McClellend
1324 N. Hollywood Way
Burbank, CA 91505

Thanks for the kind words, Michael. We're trying to put the character back into all of our titles. Keep writing and let us know how we're doing.

Dear Sirs,

Lately I have noticed quite a few long time readers voicing approval of the direction DAREDEVIL has taken under Kesel and Nord. I would like to add my voice to theirs. I've been around longer than most (a full thirty years) and can remember the glory days of Gene Colan. Cary Nord is the only penciler I've ever seen whose work on DAREDEVIL I like as much as Colan's. And when it comes down to the portrayal of the Black Widow in particular, Nord may be the best there is (though I never would have thought I would say that after seeing Colan and Buscema's portrayals of Natasha!). I was excited to hear that Gene will be the guest penciler in issue #363, but you know what? I won't be a bit sad when Nord returns again. My primary concern is to keep the team of Kesel and Nord constant for as long as possible. Kesel's lucid and involving scripts, his use of old well-loved supporting characters and his introduction of interesting new ones, such as Rosalind Sharpe, are just what DAREDEVIL has been needing for a long time. It's been a long time since I've eagerly looked forward to each new issue of DAREDEVIL as I do now! Keep up the great work.

C.P. Hartmann
(address withheld by request)

Well C.P., we're sorry but unfortunately this will be Mr. Kesel's last issue. Next issue the writing task will be taken over by DEADPOOL writer extraordinaire, Joe Kelly. Stick around, we're sure you won't be disappointed!

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I don't know what I was doing when I was ignoring DAREDEVIL. I'm just glad that I caught myself in time. I had often glanced over the new releases at the comic store and just passed over DAREDEVIL without pausing. When Marvel was cutting titles I had always thought that they would and should cut DAREDEVIL. However, all that changed recently. I had been reading in many reviews how DAREDEVIL is the best current Marvel book out there, and then I would laugh and say, "Are they out of their minds?". Then one day, curious as I am (I also had a bit of extra cash), I picked up DAREDEVIL #361 along with my other Marvel regulars. When I got home later that day I started reading the books. DAREDEVIL was the last one I picked up. I read it and surprisingly enough, enjoyed it. Daredevil used to be impossible to enjoy but the current creative team beat the odds and creates an enjoyable read. I hope they stay on the book even when they're dead (well maybe not then). Chain them to their desks if you have to cause I'm hooked on DD!

Until you reveal that Daredevil is a clone of Spider-Man's clone, Make Mine Marvel!

Ryan Solski
67 Mikado Cr.
Brampton, ONT
CANADA L6S 3R5

We thought we had Karl chained up pretty good but he managed to break free. Don't worry though, Ryan, Joe will keep it enjoyable and this time we're using adamantium chains!

Devil's Advocate,

Well, you've done the impossible. You've pulled me back into the Marvel Universe, albeit on a small scale. Issue #361 hooked me. Fellow fans had alerted me that Karl Kesel was instilling life back into DAREDEVIL, but I was reluctant to believe. This issue convinced me.

No angst overdose, no giant guns or freakish-looking, steroid-popping heroes looking to tear someone's head off. Just a good, solid super hero story. I'm one of the old timers too, I guess (at 27!), who collects the Stan Lee/Gene Colan issues with a passion and I feel too many of Marvel's recent changes have been aimed at kids. For several years now, I've had no time for the Man Without Fear, much less any of the recent HEROES REBORN revamps. However, as long as the current creative team on this book sticks around, I will too. The first two issues I've picked up have featured the Absorbing Man, the Grey Gargoyle, the Molten Man and the Black Widow! I haven't a clue what's going on yet, but I plan on having fun while finding out.

Thanks for letting cooler heads prevail in at least one instance and for refusing to jump on any bandwagons. Karl Kesel, Cary Nord and Matt Ryan have restored some sanity to my favorite corner of the Marvel Universe. Thank you.

B. Clay Moore
6445 Aminda
Shawnee, KS 66226

Well, Clay, we hope you stay on board even though Karl has left. If you've liked the book so far, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

NEXT ISSUE: Things between Liz and Foggy continue to deteriorate because of Niomi and, oh yeah, Daredevil takes on a fightin' mad Molten Man! Isn't he a good guy now? Find out why in 30 days, true believer!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

EDITORIAL PROFILE: SUZANNE GAFFNEY BEASON
EDITOR AND CYBER-GODDESS

EDITOR ON: Marvel's Online Cyber Comics, Marvel's upcoming CD Roms, some top secret new stuff!

THE BEST THING I'VE WORKED ON HAS GOT TO BE: EXCALIBUR. I've been so lucky to work on so many great projects, but I feel especially proud of the work I did with *Warren Ellis* and *Carlos Pacheco* on their run. Next up would be the Cyber Comics. I've loved watching them evolve.

WHY I GOT INTO COMICS: Is not as important as why I stay. The opportunity to carry, as *Stan Lee* once said, "the burning beacon of the Marvel mythos to pierce the gloom, to light (the reader's) way" is a hard thing to let go of.

HOW I GOT INTO COMICS: Gluing. The now nonexistent Marvel Books needed someone to make "dummy" books. They hired me. Hmmm.

THE MAJOR INFLUENCES ON MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE: *Tom DeFalco*, *Bob Harras*, Stan as an icon, so many talented people along the way.

THE MAJOR INFLUENCES ON MY PERSONAL LIFE: Hubby Kirk, kid Blossom, the folks, the sibs, the friends.

FAVORITE COMIC BOOK STORY: WOLVERINE #75.

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Leaving Normal.*

HOBBIES: Hunting for antiques.

BEST PART OF MY JOB: Having so much creative input, learning new things.

WORST PART OF MY JOB: Having so much creative input, learning new things. (just kidding!)

WHEN I'M ALL ALONE IN THE OFFICE, I LIKE TO: Surf the Net for interesting sites.

HOW EDITING THE CYBERCOMICS DIFFERS FROM EDITING REGULAR COMICS: There are different things to consider when putting it together besides the storyline, such as where animations will go, which sounds would work best and where, what kind of interactivity can we design for each page.

WHY I LOVE TECHNOLOGY: The possibilities for using it for entertainment are endless.

MY ADVICE TO SOMEONE TRYING TO BREAK INTO COMICS: Work hard out of respect for yourself and the medium!

PARTING WORDS: Sometimes it is better to miss the forest for the trees. (My sister wrote that.)

He's been an *Avenger*, a *Defender*, and a founding member of *X-Factor*. He's a brilliant biochemist, a renowned lecturer, and an astounding acrobat. But he's mostly been known as a mainstay of Marvel's premier team of super-powered mutants — the uncanny *X-Men!* He's the *Beast*, and now this consummate team-player gets to shine — after far too long a time — in a thrilling adventure of his own! THE BEAST is a three-issue limited series which showcases the bouncing, blue-furred X-Man in action — and also wraps up one of the longest-running mysteries of the X-Universe!

The story features the return of two deadly villainesses: the sexy master schemer called *Viper* and the six-armed interdimensional assassin *Spiral!* What insidious plans do these two dastardly damsels have for our blue-furred hero and the young siblings of the former *New Mutant* known as *Karma?* It's a harrowing journey into the heart of evil — and possibly the hairiest X-Man's hairiest challenge ever! Along for the ride are Karma herself, possessing the ability to possess people, and the X-Men's brash rookie member, *Cannonball!*

The creative team on THE BEAST is made up of writer *Keith Giffen*, the multi-talented creator who's recently worked on EXCALIBUR, and whose work on DC's *Legion of Super-Heroes*, *Justice League*, and *Lobo* have become modern classics, and one of Marvel's hottest artistic finds of the year, *Cedric Nocon!* If you've seen his work in X-MEN, be assured that this guy was just warming up! So strap in for another wild ride, because an important chapter in X-Men — and Marvel — history is about to unfold in spectacular manner!

One of Marvel's most critically-acclaimed — and downright fun — series, UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN, continues to deliver action-packed and often insightful stories from the early days of the wondrous wall-crawler's career — every month at the ridiculously low price of 99 cents! But if you still haven't checked out the innovative work of *Kurt Busiek*, *Pat Olliffe*, and *Al Williamson* in these pages, now is the time to take the plunge — and that goes double for you die-hard X-Fans!

Why? Well, because this month's issue presents a Marvel milestone: the never-before-revealed first meeting between the young *Spider-Man* and another group of fledgling, often-outcast young heroes: *Cyclops*, *the Beast*, *Iceman*, *Marvel Girl*, and the *Angel!* And unless you've been living under a rock, you just know we're talking about the original members of the *X-Men!*

Seems there's a new mutant super-villain in town, on a crime wave throughout New York City, using what appears to be a mutant teleportation power to jump from crime to crime! And in these relatively innocent days, before massive anti-mutant paranoia, the fear of mutants this villain's fanning could be disastrous for the young X-Men, who are just trying to make society safe for their kind! So Spidey, who knows just a tad about being persecuted himself, joins them in their quest to shut the criminal down! It's weblines, optic blasts, and ice-slides galore as the battle is joined, and by the end, our heroes may learn that not all is what it seems! All this, plus the prerequisite *Peter Parker* soap opera elements that have made this mag what it is! How can you go wrong for under a buck?

CHECKLIST FOR MARCH 13

AVENGERS #7 All-new *Avengers* excitement by a red-hot creative team! By *Rob Liefeld*, *Jeph Loeb*, and *Ian Churchill!*

GHOST RIDER #85 It's the all-out rampage of *Dracula's* deadly daughter *Lilith!* And what can *Ghostie* do about it with his body possessed by the *Scarecrow?* Ooo, scary, kids! By *Ivan Velez, Jr.* and *Pop Mhan!*

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #509 Who among the assembled *Lost Gods* is a traitor? The answer could decide the fate of *Asgard* itself! By *Tom DeFalco* and *Deodato Studios!*

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #423 It's the shocking return of that high-voltage heavyweight — *Electro!* And is another deceased *Spidey* villain ready to make a return from the great beyond? By *Tom DeFalco* and *Joe Bennett!*

MARVEL ADVENTURES #1 An all-new, all-exciting animated style adventure! *Spidey* and the savage *Scorpion* slug it out at *J. Jonah Jameson's* publishing awards dinner! By *Ralph Macchio* and *Ben Herrera!*

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN #21 A never-before-told classic! *Spider-Man's* first meeting with the original *X-Men!* Misunderstood young heroes unite to stop a madman fanning anti-mutant paranoia! By *Kurt Busiek* and *Pat Olliffe!*

THE BEAST #1 An all-new *X-Men* limited series showcasing *Hank McCoy's* dangerous quest to rescue *Karma's* siblings from the clutches of the sexy but deadly *Viper!* By *Keith Giffen* and *Cedric Nocon!*

GENERATION X #27 The *Gen X* kids find themselves stuck on board a nuclear submarine with its arsenal aimed right at Europe! What can a handful of teenage mutants do to halt a holocaust? By *Scott Lobdell* and *Chris Bachalo!*

X-FACTOR #134 The government's mutant team will never be the same after "Operation: *X-Factor* Underground!" And don't miss a pivotal point in the relationship between *Multiple Man* and *Strong Guy!* By *Howard Mackie* and *Joff Matsuda!*

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE #7 *Sisko's* on trial, and *Dax* and *O'Brien* are on a mission to find the evidence to save his life! But someone has other ideas... By *Howard Weinstein* and *Tom Grindberg!*

MARVEL ONLINE
Available March 13

SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC #35 The actor playing *Spidey* in the movie has gotten too caught up in the role — and now the real web-slinger's gotta come to his rescue! By *Glenn Greenberg*, *Todd Nauck* and *Atomic Paintbrush!*

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BEASTCHARMING: AS (SCAN) CRAZY AS HE'S EVER BEEN!
IS IT ME, OR HAS THE WORLD GONE COMPLETELY TOPSY-TURVY?
It's me, isn't it?
Questions? Queries? Comments?
BEASTCHARMING@YAHOO.COM